

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Tuesday, October 15. 1706.

Once more, Gentlemen, and I have done; the Question is upon the Negative, *Who are they that shall be no Gainers by the Union with Scotland?*

The Enemies to the present Peace of Parties, *so earnestly deir'd*, and so much advanc'd in *England*, will certainly be no Gainers by the Union, I mean, in their Party Capacity. The Union with *Scotland* will certainly strike a killing mortal Stroke upon the Head of National Strife; the Division of *Scotland* is the very Life of their Cause, 'tis the Foundation of their Hopes, the Coat from whence they expect the Restoration of that abdicated, sunk, obsolete Term, Persecution: Here's the Cloud, *small as a Mans Hand*, but from which they expect Storms and Floods of Discord and Animosity, that shall spread themselves

over the whole pacifick Hemisphere of the Nation.

Union abroad is as fatal to them as Peace at home, 'tis contrary to their Temper, and to the Nature of their Design in the World; and 'tis no wonder, these People strive with their utmost Power to fill the Heads of every Party with Discontents, Cavils, and Railing at the Union; that they rail at *an English Union* to the *Scots*, and at *a Scots Union* to the *English*.

To the *English*, they cry out of the *Scots* encroaching on their Manufactures, the *Scots* eating the Bread out of their Mouths, working too cheap, and a thousand things of that Sort, over and above their being *Paraticks*, *Presbyterians*, their pulling down the Church, and the like.

To

To the *Scots*, they cry out, that the *English* will enslave them, that the *English* want a Union, and they do not; that the *English* will make a meer conquer'd Kingdom of them, and the like.

To the *English*, they cry out of the Church being betray'd, sunk, and endanger'd by the Encroachments of the Kirk, and by the growing Power of *Presbytery*; that their Commons in our House of Commons, and their Lords in our House of Lords, will be always ready to vote against the Church, till at last they vote Her quit out of Doors, and so by Consequence over-run the Nation.

To the *Scots* they cry out, the *English* will over-run their establish'd Church, debauch their great Ones, and at last give up their Kirk to the Destroyer, whose Courtesie they have so severely experienc'd.

Thus they run with Fire in their Hands to both tides, and with the utmost Diligence keep open the Breach of Parties in both Kingdoms; and why is all this Legerdemain? What is all this Juggling for, all against the Union? And how else can this Mystery be unfolded, that the Danger of both Churches, a *Contradiction* worth *unusual Laughter*, is cry'd up by the very same People; the same that cry Fire here, cry Fire there, the same Principle gives Life to the differing Product, this is indeed a Monster, which few People can describe; 'tis a Spring from whence issues Fire and Water, 'tis *Presbytery* rarefied, and *High-Church* condens'd; 'tis a jumbling the *Poles* together, 'tis a Mass of *Contradictions* in Conjunction 'tis a Union of the most remote Discords, and in short 'tis in its Nature absolutely and entirely unaccountable.

What can be said for so bare-fac'd an Imposition upon the World, and how will the Gentlemen reconcile their Prudence to their Politicks, to offer a thing so naked, a Jeſt so ill wrapt up to the World?

I know but one plain Way to make it out, and that is, that the Union is the Way to restore Popery in both the Nations, and if so, both Churches may be really in Danger; if the Proposal therefore of a Union between the Kingdoms be a mere *Papish Plot*, a real *Jesuitick Contrivance* to in-

duce the *Romish Religion*, and to ruin the Protestant Interest; if it be all a Trick form'd in the Conclave at *Rome*, or in a Divan of Priests to extirpate the *Northern Heresie*, and plant *Ignatius Loyola's Disciples* in these Kingdoms; if this can be made out indeed, you are all in the right, Gentlemen, to oppose it, and startle at it as a Monster big with Destruction, both religious and civil teeming Massacres, Inquisitions, and all the sequent Mischiefs of the *Roman Authority* erected on the *British Throne*.

But then it will remain to be prov'd here, that in the Womb of this Creature call'd Union, all these Vipers are really breeding; that it is a Sham Plot, a *Romish Enigma*, a Fongade to smoother *Protestantism*, and blow up the whole Plantation of the reform'd Religion, Root and Branch.

If this can be made out, we are all right to open against the Union, and rail most unmeasurably, and your humble Servant will always endeavour to be one of the loudest on this Head; for should the Heads and the Horns come to be planted here, should the Whore of *Babylon*, who 'tis not agreed yet who she is, but she we call so, I mean, come hither with all her *Be-Cassars*; let me tell ye, Gentlemen, the Difference between Church of *England*, and Kirk of *Scotsland* would be all taken away, the widened Terms would close, 'twould be the general Heads, *Romish*, and reform'd *Papist*, and *Protestant*, that would stand in Competition; and whenever the Church of *England* fell in her, all the rest would all sink of course, in her Fall the whole *Protestant Religion* would be overwhelm'd, with her the general Interest of the Reformation would dye and decease; not because her self would pull them down with her, but by the Nature of the thing, the Point of *Romish Power* being naturally and equally bent against the general Defection of *Protestantism*, of whatsoe'er Kinds from the Church, under the general Term of *Heretie*; and here to digress a little.

I wish all Sorts of *Protestants*, who now fill the Age with their needless Clamours at one another, and who seem to look no farther than their private, unhappy, and I must

must lay in many Respects, senseless Animosities, would but consider, how effectually Romish Power, Marian Flames reviv'd, and an abdicated Peace restor'd would reconcile them all ? How easie they would thake Hands again and be Brethren ? How ridiculous all their Feuds, Disputes, Fears, Suspicions, proud and affected Divisions, and unchristian Animosities would look ? How it would reduce all the several and separated Parties into one general Party, and with what Pleasure they would fly to one anothers Arms for mutual Council, Assistance, Strength and Defence ?

The Experiment is, I confess, too dear to be made anew, and some People do not love to go back to the Time, when the instance of it may be reminded ; but they, who care to look back but a few Years to the Times of the late King James, may find a Time, when some of these very Gentlemen, who now cry out loudest of the Danger of the Church from Protestant *Dissenters*, and make most noise against the Union with the Scots, as with Men whose Principles are fatal to the Church, were the forwardest Men to cry up Peace and Union, were the warmest in their Expostulations with the *Dissenters*, and pressing them to forget Unkindness, come into a general League against the Danger that threatned them, and unite against Popery as a common Enemy.

These very Men that now are so hot for Occasional Bills, suppressing the *Dissenters*, Academies and Scholes, excluding them from Places, and the like ; that are for crushing their Hopes, and bringing them into unheard of Bondages ; these are the very Men, I say, and I could give Instances of many of them by Name, who were for coming to a Temper, giving the *Dissenters* Liberty, and treated them as Friends. Then it was OUR BRETHREN, the *Dissenters*, and OUR BRETHREN that differ from us in some Matters, and the like.

But now these Parsons have forgot that they were Clarks, their Fears of Ecclesiastick Commissions and Invasions on their particular Interest are over, and they have forgotten the Vows of their Distress. When these uniting, tho' dissenting Brethren came

in, and tho' courted by the Government, despis'd the illegal Liberty offer'd them, and chose Persecution with these People of God, the Church ; and now see how the Gentlemen vie them, see, how they remember their Vows according to an old Distich,

*When the Devil was sick,
The Devil a Monk would be ;
When the Devil was well,
The Devil a Monk was he.*

Nor is this all, for these People not only are pleased to forget their Vows and Promises to the *Dissenters*, but fly in the Faces of those Gentlemen in the Church, who are more honest than themselves, and who have religiously observ'd the Agreement made with the *Dissenters* ; thus the Parliament, Court, *not the QUEEN her self excepted*, come under their Censure, because they think fit to preserve the Capitulations of the Revolution, by which I desire to be understood, that the Church of *England*, as such, the establish'd Government in Church and State have really maintain'd the Honour and Faith of their Promises, and continue to do so vigorously, even against the Clamours, Noise, and Fury of this Party.

From this honorable Remembrance come Tollerations and Promises to maintain them, earnest Exhortations to Peace and Charity, and a Recess of Party Feuds, rejecting all Attempts to suppress and oppress, and all just Endeavours both in the QUEEN, Parliaments, Ministry and Clergy to prevent the Breakings out of the old evil Spirit, that has so often embroil'd this Nation.

The same Spirit of Tenderness, Love, Charity and Justice enclines the Church of *England* to a Temper of Union with *Scotland*, a thing so fruitful of Advantages to both Kingdoms, that it seems to me to be the hardest and unhappiest thing that could happen in the World, that both sides are not equally and universally convinc'd of the Benefit.

I return therefore to the Subject of the Union ; and the Absurdity of the Objectors is really the less to be wondred at, in that 'tis apparent, they are neither the Church of